

REUTER

27 August 1981

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WASHINGTON, Aug 27, REUTER -- Former CIA agent EDWIN WILSON DENIED TONIGHT THAT HE HAD SET UP A TRAINING SCHOOL FOR TERRORISTS IN LIBYA OR THAT HE RECRUITED GREEN BERETS TO STAFF IT.

WILSON AND ANOTHER FORMER AGENT OF THE CIA, FRANK TERPILY, HAVE BEEN INDICTED ON CHARGES OF ILLEGALLY SUPPLYING LIBYAN LEADER MUAMMAR GADDAFI WITH EXPLOSIVE TIMERS; SETTING UP A TERRORIST TRAINING ORGANIZATION IN LIBYA AND CONSPIRING TO COMMIT POLITICAL ASSASSINATION FOR MR GADDAFI.

THE INTERVIEW ON ABC's "WORLD NEWS TONIGHT," TRANSMITTED FROM TRIPOLI, WAS WILSON'S FIRST SINCE HE WAS INDICTED IN 1980.

HE DENIED CHARGES MADE EARLIER TODAY BY A FORMER U.S. ARMY SPECIAL FORCES COMMANDO THAT HE HAD BEEN RECRUITED TO ORGANIZE A COMMANDO TRAINING TEAM IN LIBYA.

RETired Master Sergeant LUKE THOMPSON SAID, ALSO IN A TELEVISION INTERVIEW, THAT HE BELIEVED AT THE TIME HE MET WILSON THAT HE WAS WORKING FOR THE CIA.

"I WOULD HAVE TO SAY TO HIS FACE HE'S A LOUDMOUTH, A LIBBY AND WE ARE WELL RID OF HIM," WILSON SAID.

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ASKED IF THE GREEN BERETS WERE TRAINING TERRORISTS IN LIBYA, WILSON SAID:

"THAT'S AN ABSOLUTE LIE ... THE GREEN BERETS, THE SPECIAL FORCES PEOPLE WE HAVE HIRED ON BEHALF OF THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT ... TO DO LOW-LEVEL TRAINING OF THEIR MILITARY PEOPLE."

"I DON'T THINK THIS COUNTRY IS TRAINING ANY TERRORISTS, LET ALONE THE GREEN BERETS TRAINING THEM," HE ADDED.

WILSON DID NOT DENY THAT AS MIDDLEMAN FOR A COMMERCIAL SWISS FIRM HE HAD HIRED FORMER GREEN BERETS TO WORK IN LIBYA, BUT SAID:

"THEIR FORTE WAS JUST LIKE VIETNAM, TO TEACH LOW-LEVEL ARMY TACTICS ... THESE PEOPLE ARE JUST ADVISING AT A VERY BASIC LEVEL."

ASKED IF THERE STILL WERE GREEN BERETS WORKING IN LIBYA, HE REPLIED: "AT THE PRESENT, FOUR."

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